The Bicentennial Celebration
1776 1976

The Crescent-Villa Community
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WE WISH TO THANK ALSO ALL THOSE WHO FOUND TIME TO COLLECT THE ADS FOR THIS BOOKLET.
The first settlers arrived in what is now the Crescent-Villa area in 1785. They were Robert McKay (McCoy), a Revolutionary War soldier who fought under Mad Anthony Wayne, and his wife, Mary. The Quaker couple's seven children also made the lengthy journey from Frederick County in northeast Virginia.

For his wartime service McKay was given a plot of land in Kentucky County, Virginia, which was bounded by the Ohio River, Dry Creek, and Pleasant Run Creek. The depth of the property was not specified, but it is known that it extended as far as Madison Pike, and it is believed to have totaled 3,000 acres.

The McKays picked a spot overlooking the river on the present Reinhart farm and built a log cabin there. The river was the most important travel and trade route of these early settlers, and trails for horse carriages were made down the hills to reach it. Eventually three roads were cleared to the river, one in the vicinity of the Scott property on Highwater Road, another between Villa Madonna Academy and Madonna Manor, and a third near the WCKY towers.

As the McKay children began to marry, their mother, who was widowed by that time, deeded various parts of her land to them. Alice McKay married John Allen, and they lived in the area of the Thriss farm, found off present-day Buttermilk Pike. It is believed they owned most of the property that is now Crescent Springs.

Rachel McKay married Captain Levi Cleveland, who desired of setting himself up in some kind of commerce, had come to the area around the same time as the nine McKays. She and Cleveland, brother of Moses Cleveland, for whom the Ohio city was named, were given some acreage which includes the Toebben farm on Amsterdam Road. Capt. Cleveland was buried at a plot overlooking the Ohio River in 1813. His wife and two children are believed to be buried beside him.

The oldest house still standing in the area is the Toebben farm home, which was built by Rachel and Levi's son, Washington Cleveland in the 1830's. Washington's son, Joseph Cleveland, built the old Summe home which stood from the early 1840's till the very recent development of Amsterdam Village.

Three other houses of this period are the Kreylick home (St. Mary's House) on Villa Madonna grounds, the Stanley Foltz home on Swan Street in Crescent Springs, and the Robert R. Scott home on Highwater Road. The Scott home has been continuously occupied by members of that family since it was built.

Charles W. Scott married Lucinda McKay, a granddaughter of the original settlers, in 1825. Lucinda's mother, Deborah McKay, made a written agreement with them to deed them 300 acres on which they might live provided Charles cleared some of the land, built rail fences, planted fruit trees, and most importantly, promised to reside in Northern Kentucky for the remainder of his life.

Stanley Foltz House

The Scotts began their married life in a log cabin and it was only in 1843 that work began on the two-story white brick structure now standing on the hills overlooking the Ohio River.

Scott, a Baptist minister (though not a teetotaller) whose church stood near the
intersection of Lexington Turnpike and Anderson Ferry Road (Dixie Highway and Buttermilk Pike), like many Southerners with large land holdings, had slaves to work on his farm. The slaves were housed on the second floor of his home.

Proof that not all the local slaves were resigned to their condition exists in the form of a bounty poster dated April 26, 1847. It reads in part:

$3,125

Ranaway from the subscribers, on Saturday night 24th April 1847:

EIGHTEEN NEGRO SLAVES

from the county of Kenton, and the state of Kentucky. The names and descriptions are as follows: A Negro man named Wesley, aged about 22 years, black, about 6 feet high, weighs about 175 or 80 pounds, and is the property of James Cleveland.

One named Lewis, calls himself Lewis Gardner, copper color, aged about 26 years, weighs about 165 pounds, about 5 feet 10 inches high, quick spoken, pleasant countenance and belongs to Charles W. Scott.

$3,125

REWARD
RANAWAY, APRIL 26, 1847

EIGHTEEN NEGRO SLAVES

WESTLEY  LEWIS
ROBIN  ALLEN
RACHELL  BETSY
NELSON  REBECCA
MANNY  PETER
JONATHAN  MARY
NANCY  ROBERT
MARY  GABRIEL
DINAH  BETSY

KENTON CO. APRIL 26, 1847

Two slaves, named ROBIN and ALLEN; Robin age about 23 years, about 6 feet and 1 inch high, weighs about 170 pounds, tall and slender, talks fast and stammers, of dark color. Allen is about 5 feet 10 or 11 inches high, weighs about 170 pounds, age about 21 years, stammers some in speaking, rather light in color. The property of Washington Cleveland.

A bounty of $250 was to be paid for each of the slaves upon his delivery in Covington.

In the many years since the peculiar institution was abolished, two conflicting stories have arisen re runaway slaves and the old Franzen’s barn. Neither story can be verified.

One story holds that the barn, which was probably built sometime in the 1840’s, was a stop on the Underground Railroad. According to the other tale, the barn was used to imprison temporarily slaves who attempted to swim the Ohio River in desperate pursuit of freedom.

As the Civil War approached the Crescent-Villa area was becoming much less river oriented. A system of roads, consisting of Amsterlom Pike, Pleasant Run Pike (Bromley-Crescent Springs Road), Anderson Ferry Road, Beechwood Road and St. John’s Road connected the area with the two main Northern Kentucky traffic arteries, Burlington Pike (River Road), and the Lexington Turnpike.

The improved roads throughout Northern Kentucky proved to be immensely useful in the last minute defense of Cincinnati in the fall of 1862.

In summer of that year 12,000 Confederate forces under the command of Generals Kirby Smith and Henry Heth had begun an extremely successful march through Kentucky. By late August, they had subdued such cities as Richmond, Mt. Sterling, Winchester, Paris, Cynthiana, Frankfort, and Lexington.

Throughout much of Central Kentucky, the invading forces were treated more like liberators than conquerors. Finding their ranks swelled with volunteers, they determined to attack the industrial river ports of Louisville and Cincinnati. At Frankfort, the forces were split. General Smith headed toward Louisville, General Heth toward Cincinnati.

As the Confederate forces approached, Union General Lew Wallace was ordered to vacate Paris with his entire command and proceed quickly to the defense of Cincinnati, Covington, and Newport.

Immediately upon his arrival on Sept. 2, 1862, he declared martial law and began organizing work details to construct fortifications and dig entrenchments in a curve from the ridges of The Highlands (Pt. Thomas) to Bromley.

On property presently owned by the Benedictine Sisters, Camp Lew Wallace was established as a grouping point for soldiers preparing to defend the Queen City of the West.

One soldier, a member of the 99th Ohio
Washington Cleveland's House

The Washington Cleveland home has withstood the passage of time extremely well. This is due to its remarkably sturdy construction.

The stone walls of the house are 18 inches thick. Originally there were beautiful stone and brick fireplaces in each of the six rooms and in the basement. The brick was made in kilns which were located on the plantation.

All the flooring and other timber, with the exception of the white pine used for the windows and doors, was hand-hewn from trees on the property. The flooring throughout is 2 inches thick and planed smooth on the top.

Presently about 16 of the window panes are original blown glass. The front door is the original, as is the staircase. The mantel pieces have delicate fluted wood trim, a decor echoed on the stair.

In its early days, the house had quarters for the slaves attached at the rear of the kitchen. That section has since been torn down.

Sister Teresa

Regiment which had been stationed in Paris, reports that after detaining in Covington they were all marched out to this Camp 'Low Wallace' high on the hills overlooking the beautiful Ohio River. We can see our gunboats patrolling the river, and a ferry working down stream.

He states further that they were camped on a 50 acre sweet potato patch, and that off limits was a little store where they could buy sweet milk for 3 cents a pint, cider for 4 cents, and pies for 10 cents each. Their exceedingly regular diet was meat, potatoes, and coffee.

Meanwhile the Confederate troops had reached as far as Walton, where they remained camped until the night of Sept. 12 when they were called away to assist Confederate General Braxton Bragg whose position in southern Kentucky was being endangered by Union General Don Carlos Buell and his Army of the Ohio.

After the threat to Cincinnati had been dispelled, Camp Wallace was relegated to serve as a stopover point for Union army companies pursuing the retreating Confederate forces.

Mike Cunningham

A RAILROAD'S CHILD

The character of the Crescent-Villa region during the last third of the 19th century was shaped by the death of one institution, slavery, and the birth of another, the railroad.

With the passage of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution in 1865, slavery was abolished throughout these United States. The Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 had freed only slaves in the seceding states of the Confederacy.

Some of the local residents, finding themselves with landholdings too large to work profitably without a cheap source of labor, began selling pieces of their property.

Whereas in 1850 four families—the Cleveland, the Scotts, the Andersons, and the Griffings—controlled most of the land in the area, in 1883 there were about 35 families in residence, almost all engaged in farming. Representatives of only a few
of these families—Buh, Eubanks, Niemeyer, Hamlar, Reinhart, Scott and Thirs—still live in the area.

If the end of slavery provided an impetus for selling land in this area, the opening of the Cincinnati, New Orleans, & Texas Pacific R.R. (Cincinnati Southern) line from Ludlow to Somerset, Kentucky, in July, 1877, provided an impetus for buying it.

Although during the first years the nearest stations were at Kenton Heights and Ludlow, the trains made unscheduled stops in Crescent Springs upon request. Unbreakable merchandise, such as groceries and newspapers, were also tossed off as the train passed through the town. Trains began making scheduled stops there sometime in the 1890s, at which time a depot was built near the old firehouse's location.

**Why Crescent Springs?**

It was after the arrival of the railroad that this region came to be called Crescent Springs. Two stories are told of the origin of the name. According to one story, "crescent" refers to the crescent the track makes as it passes through the town. Another story holds that the "crescent" was taken from the Queen and Crescent Railroad, a second name for the Cincinnati Southern.

The springs referred to were three in number. The main spring was found 100 feet north of the old fire house. It was flanked by springs near Feiders Market and Tewes farm.

The railroad found it to be good business to boost the growth of towns along its line. So it was that each Saturday prospective customers were brought to the Crescent Springs land auctions being held by J.G. Anderson, John Pullock, and a Mr. Foage.

The region’s main drawing card seems to have been its healthy environment. The air was fresh and the three area springs provided a readily available source of clean drinking water. Additionally, there was the emotionally satisfying prospect of living in a small town far from the vices of the city.

Although the move to the country entailed an increased cost in commuting to work, this was partially offset by the savings to be made by raising vegetables in home gardens. The region was also overgrown with blackberry bushes which yielded nearly costless desserts.

The populace had ready access to the large cities to the north. By 1900, two morning runs and one noon run passed through Crescent Springs on the way to Cincinnati. There were early and late evening return runs. A 50 trip ticket cost $2.25.

As the town increased in size, it accumulated more and more of the institutions and services one expects to find in semi-autonomous areas.

Sometime between 1883 and 1922, the town’s first school was built. It was a one-room wooden structure erected on Anderson Road where the hardware store presently stands.

Prior to that school’s construction, children in the Crescent Springs area had attended the Lebanon school, found on the south side of Amsterdam Pike just west of the present Collins Road.

The Lebanon school, which opened before the Civil War, was made of red brick, baked at the spot.

The pre-1892 formation of a Sunday School marks the beginning of organized religious activity in the community. The instructional classes and worship services held in the Crescent Springs school building were open to all denominations.

The organization of Crescent Springs Presbyterian Church in 1898 was an outgrowth of the Sunday School. At the July organizing meeting, the 38 charter members elected elders and deacons, and made plans to erect a church. The church was completed and dedicated in September, 1901, nine months after the first pastor, Rev. Charles Diehl, was installed.

The first post office, run by a Mrs. Sacksmith, was located in the first house south of the railroad tracks on the western side of old Buttermilk Pike. The mail bag was slung on a hook as the train passed through, and then taken to the post office for distribution.

Mrs. Sacksmith was succeeded in the post by a Mrs. Welling, and around 1900 by a Mrs. Wahl. During Mrs. Welling’s tenure as postmistress, the post office moved to the small red building on Western Reserve
next to Kenny Kallmeyer's service station. The post office was discontinued in 1920.

Prior to the 1890's the only businesses in the area were a blacksmith shop, located next to the Stanley Foltz home on Swan St., and the many dairies clustered around Buttermilk Pike from which the road received its name.

Colonel J.G. Anderson operated a dairy on Pleasant Run Pike. His barn stood on the site of the present Club Moonlight. The other Crescent Springs dairy, the List dairy, operated out of the house beside the blacksmith's barns.

Three dairies could be found in the area now comprising Villa Hills. The Echo Dairy, run by Joseph Cleveland, was located on the old Summe farm, now Amsterdam Village. Amos Collins ran a dairy on the property now owned by the Benedictine Sisters. The last dairy to open, and the only one still in business, is the Thirs dairy which was founded in 1883 by the grandparents of the present owners, Bob, Paul, and Walter Thirs.

Beginning in 1890 several stores commenced business in Crescent Springs. There is some debate as to which store opened first, but J.A. Seissiger's grocery is accredited that honor most frequently. The Seissiger grocery was built where Fedders Market now stands. Seissiger operated his store for 32 years until 1922, when he sold it to Tate Hageman and Richard Subanks.

Two other establishments, a dry goods store run by H.A. Schlueter, and a candy and ice cream store run by Aunt Jenny Howell, also opened in the early 1890's. The Howell shop was found across the street from the second post office and catercorner to the train depot. The dry goods establishment stood just west of the school building.

Sometime before 1900, the candy store closed, and a Mr. Smith set up a grocery-variety store at its location. Smith remained in business until the mid-1920's, when he sold the operation to Harry Feldman.

By the turn of the century, two saloons had also opened their doors in Crescent Springs. Pauchette's saloon stood next to the depot in the building now known as the Crescent Club. Oertel's saloon was found in the building now commonly known as Nordman's bar.

Mike Cunningham

Henry & Amelia Schlueter's Store
The arrival of the 20th century did not occasion great changes in the landscape of the Crescent-Villa region, nor in the life styles of its residents.

Residents of the northern part of the region (many of whose homes were constructed of brick baked in the kilns located on the old Pete Kremer farm, now the site of Cecilia Drive) continued to support themselves by selling their farm produce. This included besides fruits, vegetables, and dairy products, chickens, sheep and pigs.

The small truck farmers would load their wagons with eggs, country cured hams and homemade sausages, and plant produce, and then make the lengthy morning journey to the Cincinnati marketplaces.

In the town of Crescent Springs, the men of the community continued to catch a train to work each morning. By 1905, increased traffic along the line had compelled the laying of a second track. A bridge was then raised above the double track at its junction with Buttermilk Pike.

The women of the town used their days to do housework (sans electrical helpers), to garden, to can fruits and vegetables, to shop, to babysit, to sew, and when time allowed, to socialize with neighbors.

For five months, the children's mornings were consumed in education, their afternoons in chores and play. In winter, days were wiled away in sledding, skating, and snowball fighting. In warm weather, hours were abandoned to swimming, sports (there was a baseball field behind the school house), outdoor games, exploring, and berry-picking. In all seasons, there were the assorted pastimes generated by unchecked imagination.

The only major man-made additions to the area landscape besides the bridge over the railroad tracks were Collins Road and Villa Madonna Academy.

The new road was named for DeWitt G. Collins, a tobaccoist, whose farm it meandered through. The road followed the land's terrain, resulting in a windy, hilly and circuitous path. Because of its narrowness—there was room for only one wagon—the road was nicknamed 8 Foot Road.

The Villa Madonna Academy building was erected in 1906-7. The community was both intentionally and unintentionally involved in the project. For a dime you could donate a brick for the new school. Charley Maegly did this with ten cents his father gave him. Alma Maegly played the piano at the dedication services.

The bricks and other materials for the building were brought up from Covington through Devou Park and by Amsterdam Pike. Because of the heat much of the brick was brought up at night. The clip-clop of horse hooves could be heard much of the night. During one of the day deliveries the boilers for the building slipped off the wagon as it took a curve, and all the men for miles around had to be rounded up to get them back on the wagon.

The Benedictine Sisters had moved to this region in 1904, after buying the 85.5 acre W. S. Collins estate from James Cleveland.

They named the property Villa Madonna meaning "the country seat of Our Lady." Four Sisters and 17 boarding students occupied the W. S. Collins home, which stood on the grounds when the school opened in 1904. For the three years until the academy was built, the Collins house served as home, school, and chapel.

If the century's first decade was quiescent, the second was not. The decade was marked by the institution of four new community organizations and a rash of natural and man-generated disasters.

The Crescent Springs Building and Loan Association was organized near the start of the decade. The members, who had to be local residents, met each Tuesday evening in the dry goods store to transact that
The building and loan association remained in operation until 1973 when it was bought out by General Savings.

In 1913, the Crescent Springs Baptist Church became the second church to be set up in the community. The church's charter members, Rev. T.J. Marksberry and his wife and son, and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Slayback, held services in a small grove of trees at the rear of the present parsonage.

In the few years before their church was erected, they, as did the Presbyterians before them, used the school building for services and Sunday School during inclement weather.

The Catholic members of the community succeeded in getting permission to set up a parish in Crescent Springs in 1916. This was seven years after 24 families first petitioned the bishop to found a church there.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church was built in a blackberry patch on the hill overlooking the main section of the town. In the back of the structure were built two rooms which were used as classrooms when a school was opened there in 1917.

The church's first pastor, Rev. B. Herman Busse, served also as the chaplain at Villa Madonna, where he resided. Sr. Agnesis Green, O.S.B., served as first principal, and lone teacher.

A year before St. Joseph Grade School opened, the local public school was designated a high school by the Kenton County Board of Education. It was one of four opened by the Board that year.

The building had had to be enlarged to accommodate the increased enrollment. Stella Lee became the school's first high school teacher.

At about this same time a Mothers' Club was instituted in Crescent Springs. It has been characterized as being a fore-runner of the P.T.A. The Junior Order organized the youth of the community in such activities as plays, picnics, and socials.

The decade's first natural disaster, the flood of 1913, left the area isolated from its major sources of food, Cincinnati and Covington, when the railroad tracks and River Road became inundated. The resulting food shortage, though not severe, pinpointed the region's vulnerability in times of prolonged bad weather. The flood's main effect was the stoppage of paychecks for those who worked outside the area.

Three years after the flood, in July, 1916, a tornado tore through the community. Although all the local homes were left untouched, numerous barns lost their roofs, and several large trees were uprooted. One plate glass window from one of the stores was blown out.

In winter of the next year, 1917-18, the area was visited by a blizzard and a prolonged period of subfreezing temperatures.

The temperature dropped to 16 degrees below zero, and for a period of more than two weeks the thermostat never registered a temperature above 8 degrees below zero. Wells and cisterns froze over, as did the

![Railroad Bridge](image)

Ohio River. Many of the older area citizens remember making horse and buggy trips over the frozen water. The cold was such that canned fruits and vegetables stored away in cellars froze in their jars. Chickens froze on the road.

Shoulder high snow buried the routes
used to bring food and fuel to the region. All coal deliveries stopped. Food prices soared. Eggs went up to $1.00 a dozen. Sugar, which had cost 5 cents a pound escalated to 30 cents. In spite of the high prices, the local stores' food stocks were soon exhausted.

In addition to the peril posed by the freezing temperatures (J.A. Seissiger nearly froze to death when he attempted to deliver groceries to a house on Buttermilk Pike. He was found dazed, and almost buried in a snow drift by his neighbor, John Noll), a flu epidemic broke out, taking several lives in the community.

When Bill Harrison attempted to make his way from the town, he was forced to give up his plans and turn back to round up his neighbors to go rescue his horse which had become trapped in the deep banks of snow.

The situation became so desperate, the men of the area decided to shovel a path from the bridge to Dixie Highway, a task they accomplished after hundreds of man-hours of work.

The winter crisis had had one happy effect. For a period of a few weeks at least the population forgot at times that 200,000 Americans were fighting in France.

Two boys from Crescent Springs were killed during the 17 months of 1917-8 that Americans fought in World War I. They were Howard Marx and Tom Coyle.

One of the unpleasant side effects of World War I was an outbreak of anti-German feeling. The Crescent-Villa area, as the Ohio valley as a whole, had a large contingent of German families. These persons found it necessary to set aside their customs and traditions in order to show their patriotism. So it was that after the war started that band music was heard no more in Crescent Springs.

Sometime after the turn of the century, a park had been set up in the triangle of land between Crescent Avenue and Swan Road. The park was variously called Poage Park, after the man who donated the land, and Grossman Woods, after the German family which played music there.

Each Sunday the opening of the picnic grounds was announced by the joyous tones of the Grossman band. The band, which consisted of several fathers, sons, and daughters, even had a circular bandstand from which to play. After the war started, however, they stopped playing their instruments in public.

Besides a bandstand, the park had tables, benches, an ice cream and lemonade stand, and a hanging tree from which no one is known to have been hanged.

The second decade of this century is notable for one further reason. It marks the beginning of the automobile age.

One of the first "horseless carriage" owners, if not the first owner in the Crescent-Villa area was Dr. T.J. Tate, who had a farm on Dry Creek Road (Erlanger-Crescent Springs Road). Dr. Tate's office was in Covington and he owned a home there also. Two or three times a year, though, he would visit his farm. Beginning in the early 1910's, Dr. Tate made his journey by machine.

The car had but one cylinder, was chain driven, and made a frightful racket as it rolled along on its hard rubber tires. When the school teacher heard Dr. Tate coming—usually about 9:00 or 10:00 in the morning—she would take the kids outside where they would line up along the road to watch the machine pass. The process would be repeated when Dr. Tate returned to Covington that afternoon.

Although the auto had no profound effect on the community until after World War I, a bus service that began sometime before 1915 did ciphon off some business from the railroad. It was the beginning of the end for the railroad.

The bus, which was driven by a Mr. Shubert for the Ford-Hanauer Company, made regular trips to the junction of Buttermilk Pike and Dixie Highway, which by that time was the end of the streetcar line. Abby Botz took over the bus line in the 1920's.

Mike Cunningham
A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP

During the second decade of the century, the area's population had grown to sufficient size to support several new community organizations. At the same time it had undergone a number of hardships. All this had the effect of developing a large sense of community in the area.

This spirit was carried over into the next few decades as the area slowly grew in population and faced further troubles.

After the armistice ending the great war was signed in November, 1918, the nation turned its attention to meeting domestic demands, that had been ignored during the war years. There was particularly high demand for housing.

John R. Bullock, a Crescent Springs realtor, decided to tap some of the housing market. He commenced selling lots on the western side of Western Reserve.

A large billboard advertising the development stood next to the train depot. It read:

![Crescent Springs Billboard]

The house-building associated with the Bullock enterprise was the last major housing expansion in the area until the homes on Nordman Drive were built in the 1940's.

In addition to the influx of new residents, the town underwent numerous other changes. Both the Smith and Seissiger groceries were sold in the first half of the 1920's, the former to Harry Feldman, the latter to Tate Hageman and Richard Eubanks.

Many local residents have fond memories of Harry Feldman, their lone Jewish neighbor.

Although Christmas held no religious significance to him, that did not prevent him fromcontracting a large portion of Christmas spirit. Each year he erected a large Christmas tree in the vacant lot beside his store. There he would distribute oranges and candy to all the kids of the community. Feldman was always generous with his candy. A child was given a free piece no matter how small his purchase.

It is also related that when one of the local residents contracted smallpox, Feldman brought her and her family the food they needed each day, explaining that the bill could be repaid after the illness had passed.

Feldman operated his store at Jew's Corner until the early 1940's. After it closed the upper rooms were rented as an apartment. The structure was torn down in the late 1950's to make way for a laundromat.

Hageman and Eubanks operated the former Seissiger grocery for a short while, after which Hageman joined with his brother-in-law, Carl Thirs, and opened a third grocery across from the railroad bridge.

Eubanks brought in his brothers, Carl and Walter, to help run his grocery. There was no need to wait in line at the Eubanks store, since if you wished, your groceries were home delivered. Eubanks kept the store until the early 1940's then sold it to Ben Otten and his son.

Groceries weren't the only things home delivered during these years. From 1931 to 1943, Kinny Nlemeyer also delivered coal and ice.

After the Second World War, the Ottens
sold their business to Mr. and Mrs. Mel Fedders, its present operators. The original building had to be razed in the late 1960's. A new structure was then erected.

The 18th Amendment, banning the manufacture, sale, and transportation of alcoholic beverages, took effect in 1920. Prohibition was not popular with many of the area’s citizens. There was much home-brewing, and a couple large stills turned out liquor for public libation. One of these, located in what is now Amsterdam Village, may have been the largest in Kenton County.

Throughout the 1920’s and early 1930’s while the law stayed on the books, the local saloons had to close or switch services. A Mrs. Smith, who had taken over the Rudolph saloon (in the building that first housed the Oertel saloon), converted the place to an ice cream parlor and sandwich shop. After the Prohibition amendment was repealed and Eddie Nordman had bought the business, the bar was reopened.

During the late 1930's Bud Marsh took over the barbershop from his father. He operated it for a few years, then left the business in the hands of a caretaker as he served in the armed forces during World War Two. He returned to Crescent Springs and barbering after the war. His is probably the oldest establishment now in operation in Crescent Springs.

In 1920, an era ended for children residing north of Crescent Springs town. In that year the Lebanon school—widely known as the little red schoolhouse—closed. The children who had attended the school on Amsterdam Pike were bussed to the neighbor-ing school in Crescent Springs. The event marks the beginning of school consolidation and bussing in the county.

by the mid 1920's the school's population had increased to the point that it was thought necessary to erect a new building. In 1923 a bond measure was approved by the voters of the district.

A holding company was then formed by several area residents to issue the bonds, and enter into contract with the Board of Education to construct and lease to them a school building. The new building was dedicated in February, 1925. Twelve years later the town lost its high school.

The public school wasn’t the only one growing in enrollment. In November, 1929, St. Joseph’s Church was granted permission by the bishop to build a two room wooden school building on their property.

Some years later the Crescent Springs Church of God was formed. The members erected a church in the town on Cherry St.

After the war, a number of services which had been common in the larger cities were introduced or found widespread use in Crescent Springs. Among these were electricity, the telephone, and city water.

Although city water was extended to Crescent Springs before the farm homes to the north, the circumstance may have been reversed for the other services. A telephone was installed at Villa Madonna in 1905, and electricity reached there twelve years after.

A waterline was extended to Villa Madonna in 1929. This followed a disastrous drought which had forced many of the farmers to rely on the town well in Poage Park.
for water for their families and livestock. Several farmers dug lakes on their property to alleviate the threat of future dry spells.

Yet another service begun in the late 1920's took shape solely through the efforts of community members. A volunteer fire department was organized in Crescent Springs in 1928. A wagon mounted with a large water tank served as a firetruck for Joseph Kolar, the chief, and his men. The wagon was housed in a garage next to the Feldman Grocery.

In 1931, the department got its first truck, a cut down Buick car with two chemical tanks—holding water—attached to it. Two years later work was begun on the first firehouse, a project of the Works Progress Administration (WPA).

The WPA was one of the agencies set up during the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt to combat the Depression, which hit this community as hard as any other in the country. The farmers found it difficult to support their families on the miniscule revenues their produce brought in. Many of the non-farmers faced unemployment.

Several of the young men of the area joined the Civilian Conservation Corps. Others found work on public works projects such as the firehouse and the construction of Highwater Road.

The entertainments engaged in during these years were primarily determined by an ever-present lack of funds. Home dances in living rooms with carpets rolled up were not uncommon. Music emanated from guitars and player pianos. An evening at Niagara Falls, a spot on Dry Creek, was also inexpensive entertainment. Those with a little change could go to the Ft. Mitchell Four Star Dixie, which was the nearest theater.

Both boys and girls also participated in such sports as swimming at Cabbage Hole in Dry Creek and in farm lakes—tennis, baseball, softball, and basketball.

The achievements of the girls' basketball squad particularly bear mentioning. During the ten year period, 1923-32, the girls won nine regional titles, each qualifying them for the state tournament. In 1925, they reached the finals before bowing 8-5 to Versailles High School, which was coached by A. B. (Happy) Chandler.

Though the score seems low by today's standards, it was typical for that period. In the first game played in the Crescent Springs gym in 1925, the team beat Independence High School, 11-5. The win was not unexpected. The team was undefeated in local competition for seven years. One reason for the low scores was the nearly complete absence of foul calls.

The Crescent Springs team was coached by Tate Hageman. Among its starring players over the years were Zetta Lee Ellis, Georgia Eubanks, Ethel Graham, Laverne Scott, Blanche Swarthout, and Hilda Voskuhl.

After girls basketball was abolished the local persons had to content themselves watching the Crescent Springs Baseball Club, a semi-pro team in the KIO League. The team's games drew such large crowds, in 1931, the community, headed by the club president, Henry Fedders, decided to build a ball park with grandstand.

Local farmers leveled the grounds of the site they picked for the park, a spot now covered by the concrete of I-75 south of the Buttermilk Pike overpass. Nearby trees were cut down and used as grandstand posts. All other materials and labor were donated also.
Joe Koo's Bus

Joe Koo has a bus
Just a two by four,
With a tall, lanky driver,
And a short, skinny door.
You can sit in the back
Or sit in the front
But wherever you sit,
You don’t miss a bump.
The driver is always
So happy and gay
He whistles the same tune
Most every day.
On warm, sunny days
It runs very well
On cold, chilly days
It runs like ****
Joe had lots of trouble
Getting gas for this bus
And at the ration board
Caused quite a fuss.
We ride back and forth
To school every day
Hoping and praying
There'll be no delay.
But never-the-less
Despite all the groans
It's the only transportation (besides feet)
To Crescent Springs homes.
And whenever the driver
Doesn’t show up
You can bet your last dollar
He's in Nordman's Beer "Cup".

Tate Hageman acted as player-manager of the team, which attracted players from as far away as Newport and Boone County. Each player received $10 after the game. The money was raised by passing a few hats through the stands. The team always met its obligations. Charles Thirs kept score at the Sunday afternoon games.

The ballpark closed down at the beginning of World War II. The grandstand was cleared away, and the site used as a civil defense airfield. For a short period of time, local residents had a chance to see light aircraft land there.

World War II succeeded in ending unemployment in the community as no Depression-oriented program could. Most of the young men in the area volunteered or were called into the service. Women went to work in the Cincinnati defense factories.

Early during the war, an honor roll was erected in the park next to the firehouse. Of those soldiers whose names were listed, only Billy Niemeyer died overseas. The memorial stood for several years after the fighting ended, before being torn down as any eyesore and hazard.

By the time WWII arrived, trains no longer picked up passengers in Crescent Springs. That means persons who couldn't get gas for their cars had to ride the bus to the end of the line, and there catch a streetcar to work.

The bus's driver, Joe Koo, had bought the franchise from Stanley Hillman in 1938. Hillman had bought his franchise in about 1930. Koo, who also ran a service between Division Street in Erlanger, and the end of the Ludlow bus line, operated between Crescent Springs and Ft. Mitchell upon a somewhat flexible half hour schedule.

The bus he owned had two seats on either side of the aisle, and a long seat across the back. Altogether it sat about eight persons, and with standing room could transport about twelve. The bus often is referred to as the jitney.

To go to Villa Madonna, you had to notify the driver when boarding, as that was a special trip. To return from there you had to call Nordman's Cafe, where someone would then notify the driver on his next trip that a passenger was waiting.

Koo was very kind to the children of the community. He supplied free transportation to picnics in Devou Park, and often furnished prizes for the games. He would also take the children rollerskating at the Sefferino in Cincinnati.

About 1950, Koo sold the line to Bill Griggs, who operated it for a short time, before selling it to Messrs. Pike, Isaacs, and Godbey. They held the franchise till Green Line took it over during the late 1950's.

Mike Cunningham
CONCRETE EXPLOSION

The last three decades have been ones of phenomenal population growth in this region. The countryside of the area has been completely remade. There remains but a vestige of its former days. As the population boomed it became necessary to form governments to meet increased demands. The first city in the area to incorporate was Crescent Park.

The idea of building a subdivision where the city now stands originated at the end of World War II, when an influx of returning veterans caused a monumental housing shortage.

So in late 1946, a group of veterans adopting the name Home Builders Association, called a meeting at the Covington Courthouse to determine if other veterans were interested in forming a housing coop.

The response was favorable, so the association took an option on the 64 acre Schletker farm, located on Buttermilk Pike. After the option was final, a plot was drawn subdividing the farm into 200 building lots.

The association offered 220 shares at $300 each. All were sold. The 20 extra shares were sold on the assumption that some investors would drop out and be repaid from Association funds.

Numerous problems arose as to how the land should be developed. Finally, numbers were assigned to the shareowners. The development was stalled again, however, when no financing could be found to grade, install streets, and obtain utilities for the tract.

Many shareowners abandoned hope of ever seeing the area developed as planned. Some considered their money lost.

The project remained moribund until mid-1949, when the Association contacted Leo Whalen, who agreed to build 14 houses fronting on Buttermilk Pike. Two models were to be built—10 units without front porches at $6,950 each and four units with porches at $7,250 each.

The initial shareowner wishing to buy one of these homes could apply his $300 to the $700 down payment. The first homes were completed in summer of 1950. All was going fine, but not for long.

As Summit Drive was developed, it became apparent that a septic tank could not function on a 50 by 150 foot lot. Building slowed as court action was started to allow the area to be tapped into Lakeside Park's sewer system.

The deed for the property had an easement for the sewer line, but allowed only three tap-ins. Lakeside Park contended the right was for three homes rather than all that could be connected to the tap-ins.

Agreement was reached with Lakeside Park, and an internal sewer system was installed at a cost of $375 for each existing home.

Crescent Park Civic-City Building

After the sewer fight, Leo Whalen was given exclusive rights to all the building lots in the tract, and the property which had been set aside for business and recreation was turned over to Root and Anderson, attorneys, to pay the legal fees incurred by the Association.

In June, 1952 the area incorporated as a sixth class city. Appointed to serve the city were Joe Corbett, Neal Grady, Ed Hutchinson, Bill Kelly, and Carl Vocke.

Stumbling blocks seemed to have been everywhere in the development of the city. Yet another was raised when the State Highway Department clamped a moratorium on building additional units on Burney Lane as a new expressway might pass through it.

Building continued in other areas, but a large cloud hung over the city as rumors spread about the effects of the coming expressway.

In the end, construction of I-75 forced the removal of all of Burney Lane, a part
of Summit Drive, and seven houses on Buttermilk Pike. All told, 35 homes had to be moved (most to Crescent Springs) to make way for the highway.

I-75 opened from U.S. 42 in Florence to Fifth Street in Covington in September, 1962 and in November of the next year, the Brent Spence Bridge was completed. These developments created immense pressure to rezone property facing on Buttermilk Pike to business. The zoning change was eventually enacted, and a pair of service stations sprang up there.

By this time there were no undeveloped building lots in the city, so community efforts were directed toward upgrading the streets, and making other city improvements.

The Crescent Park Civic Association was chartered in November, 1952. Root and Anderson, who owned the recreation and business property, allowed the Civic Club to control and use this plot. A ballfield and playground were installed there, but had to be removed when construction of I-75 began.

A much tinier play area was then built on land owned by the State Highway Department. That park is now the site of the Highway Department building.

The association’s last major project was the purchase of the house at 2550 Avon Drive. The property has been remodeled and now serves as a Civic and City Building.

Although the coming of I-75 effectively short-circuited any plans by Crescent Park to expand, for the rest of the area, it provided an immense building boost. The primary beneficiary so far has been Villa Hills, whose population has increased eight times since the highway opened.

The subdivision that came to be known as Villa Hills began developing in 1955. In that year, the Boh and Schreck farms were sold. Six streets were eventually built through the woods and meadows of the property—Sunglow and Kenridge Drives on the Boh property, and Frank, Ann, and Mary Streets and Rardin Court on that of the Schrecks.

Frank, Ann, and Mary Streets were named after members of the Schreck family. The fourth street carved from the property was named for a bulldozer driver killed while working on the project.

The two streets traced through the Boh farm made up the Madonna Acres subdivision. The other four streets comprised Woodlawn Acres.

For the next seven or eight years, all housing starts were confined to these six roads, Collins Road, Buttermilk Pike, and Amsterdam Pike. When Villa Hills incorporated as a sixth class city in June, 1962, the residents of these streets constituted its citizenship.

Any story of the incorporation of Villa Hills begins with the Villa Hills Civic Club. Only through its efforts was the city formed.

Original Villa Hills Sign

The Civic Club was organized at an April, 1961 meeting of residents of Madonna Acres. Thirty-eight local homeowners attended the meeting held at the home of William Krumpelman, who became the organization’s first president. Their main concern was to make minor repairs to the streets before they deteriorated to the point of needing complete resurfacing. They also planned to erect street signs and develop a play area for their children.

After their 3rd meeting in June, 1961, all members of the community were invited to join the organization. At their anniversary meeting, a motion was made to set up a committee to investigate local sentiment toward and legal requirements for incorporation.

Strong favor was found for incorporation as it was seen as a means of bringing needed services to the area and of forestalling an unpopular or disadvantageous annexation.

On June 7, 1962, the legal papers creating the city—the name for which was adopted at a public meeting—were filed with the Kenton County Clerk, and signed by Circuit Court Judge Melvin Stubbs.

Appointed as trustees of the city till an election could be held were George Parsons, chairman, Robert Springelmeyer, Rog-
er Nolting and William Krumpelman. All had been members of the Civic Club investigating committee.

Four days after becoming a legal entity, the council passed an ordinance annexing surrounding lands, which if approved would increase the size of the city 19 fold. The annexation went through in August of that year.

The annexed area, which extended the boundaries of the city east to Amsterdam Road and west to Dry Creek, included Villa Madonna, the Ed Niewahner Residence, and the farms of George Krumpelman, George Eubanks, Rich Eubanks, John Dedden, and the Thirs, Summe, Steenken, and Kremer families.

The city of Covington filed annexation papers a few days after Villa Hills for the area south of Amsterdam Pike and east of Collins Road. It contends Villa Hills had not existed long enough to legally annex property. That dispute is yet to be resolved.

The first major building project in the city outside its original boundaries was the Villa Heights housing development opposite the Villa Madonna gate. It began around 1963.

The next two years were dedicated to planning a sanitary sewer system to replace the septic tanks then in use. Plans were finally approved in March, 1966, and council then advertised for bids. Odell Construction received the contract, and the city passed a bond issue to bear the cost. The project took over two years to complete.

During these same years, Collins Road was reconstructed, and a new bridge and thoroughfare were built on the east side of Crescent Springs. The new transportation facilities had been needed to accommodate the increased traffic in the city.

In spring of 1968, the state legislature passed a bill raising the city to 5th class, effective June 13 of that year. Several changes then took place. The chairman was redesignated "mayor," two more members were placed on Council, and meetings were shifted from the firehouse to the recreation building at Madonna Manor, a senior citizens development begun by the Benedictine Sisters in 1964. (By law, the meeting place had to be within the city.) A police department was also formed.

The city had had a marshall, since it incorporated, but as no traffic ordinances were passed till November, 1964, he had had few duties. At the same meeting traffic ordinances were adopted, the council also approved the purchase of traffic signs, police uniforms, badges, sirens, and firearms. Police court was held for the first time in January, 1965.

Since 1963, the appearance of Villa Hills had been constantly altering. New houses were being added to Mary Street and Rardin Court. The Park Villa Estates development south of old Rogers Road, was begun in 1967. The Buttermilk Meadows subdivision started developing off Buttermilk Pike in 1968.

The first homes comprising Amsterdam Village were built in 1969. Over the next few years, housing starts there seemed to multiply overnight. Niewahner Drive in the subdivision is named in memory of Ronald Niewahner, the only local boy killed in the Vietnam War.

The population of Villa Hills had increased from 425 persons in 1962, to 700 in 1965, 950 in 1967, and 1,610 in 1970. The number of homes had increased from 135 to 460.

The Cecilia Drive complex of houses east of Collins Road was built beginning in the early 1970's. Plans are now under way to connect Cecilia with a subdivision to be built on the former Maegly farm off Amsterdam Road.

Soon after the sewer project was completed talk began about reconstructing some of the older streets of the city—Sunglow, Kenridge, Mary, Frank, and Rardin. No action was taken, however, until 1971 as the majority of residents of the streets involved opposed the project for which they alone would pay, each according to the front footage of his property.

In July, 1971 the project was approved by the Council over much objection, and by summer of the next year, the five streets had been reconstructed of concrete. At the
same time, Ann Street was given a three
inch repavement of asphalt.

Since the controversy over the street
repairs, the city has resumed its quiet at-
mosphere. Its silent growth continues. The
population now approximates 3600 persons.
There are more than 900 homes in the city.

The city continues to be well served
by the Civic Club. In 1963, it developed
the ballfields behind Franzen's Lake after
Joe Franzen offered the use of that land.

In June, 1967 the first issue of the
"Voice of Villa Hills" was published with
funds donated by the club. The paper was
edited by Velma Abell. Jo Ann Vogt so-
licted ads--that in the future would cov-
er most of the production costs--and Mary
Cunningham collected news.

The Civic Club lodge was purchased in
December, 1968. A five year option on the
approximately 26½ acres of land lying to
the rear of the lodge and including the
lake and ball fields was incorporated in
the sale. The option was exercised in Oc-
tober, 1971.

The club hosts numerous activities each
year, including a carnival, family picnic,
Easter Egg hunt, Halloween party, Christ-
mas party, trip to watch the Reds play, and
turkey shoots, which raise the funds for
many of the other activities.

The Villa Hills Women's club, a 1967
offshoot of the Civic Club, has also en-
gaged in such community projects as erect-
ing the present Villa Hills sign, building
the new concession stand near the lodge
ballfields, buying sports equipment and
paying umpires, and sponsoring the Arts and
Crafts show.

Another organization which has given
valuable service to the community has been
the Kenton County Lions, which draws mem-
bers from all three cities in the area.

Eyesight preservation and restoration
is the Lions Club's chief function. So it

was that the first project of the Kenton
County Lions was to borrow an eye-testing
machine to begin screening the local grade
schools for children with eye problems.

The local Lions pioneered the screen-
ing for glaucoma in Kentucky. During the
initial screening, 26 cases of the disease
were found in the area.

The money raised by the organization
through turkey shoots, candy-selling, and
turkey shaking is used primarily to buy eye-
testing equipment, to help local citizens
to pay for eye treatment, and to support
the hospital built by the Kentucky Lions.

The chapter also helps support three
summer camps--two for crippled and retarded
children, and one for disadvantaged boys
that is run by the Kentucky State Troopers.

The Kenton County Lions have also pur-
chased jump suits and radio monitors for
members of the Crescent Springs life squad
and fire department.

Whereas Villa Hills's story these past
three decades has been primarily that of a
young fast-growing suburban bedroom com-

munity, Crescent Springs's has been that
of a rejuvenated older city.

Innumerable homes have been renovated,
and several major buildings have either un-
dergone great changes, or been razed and
replaced.

Among these are St. Joseph School, St.
Joseph Church, the Church of God, the Ba-
pstist Church, Crescent Springs School, and
the Firehouse.

St. Joseph's new school building was
raised in 1951-2. During the past months,
a second floor has been added to it. This
allowed the destruction of the original
white wooden school.

The new St. Joseph Church opened in
1960. The old church, which still stands,
has been used as a gym, library, cafeteria,
and school building.

The Church of God moved its location
to Buttermilk Pike beside Crescent Springs School in the 1950's. The original church has since been subdivided into apartments. Crescent Springs Baptist Church built its second church in 1967. The original church had been razed some years before, so until the new church was erected, services were held in their school building, which stands behind the new structure.

In 1969, Crescent Springs School got a second building, consisting of five class rooms and a library. Twice before during that decade major additions had been made to the building, this despite the removal of the seventh and eighth grades to Turkeyfoot Junior High School in 1962.

The institution which has most recently built new quarters in the city is the Fire Department. Construction of their new facility on Overlook Drive began in January, 1975 and was finished 9 months later. The old firehouse is presently being divided into shops.

Crescent Springs, as did Villa Hills, profited greatly from the construction of I-75. It brought new homes and businesses to the community.

There have been three main residential developments, Country Squire Estates east of Buttermilk Pike, on the former Nordin-Hensley farm, Meadowview Apartments, and Hillcrest Village, both west of Western Reserve, the latter on the Frank Foltz farm.

are the gas stations situated around the Buttermilk overpass. Five of these are located in Crescent Springs, two in Crescent Park, and two in Ft. Mitchell. With the exception of Kenny Kallmeyer's station—which was not included in the above totals—and the Texaco station, the area gas stations opened after the highway's passage.

Schmidt poultry and the first Stop 'n Go were the first non-gas selling establishments set up following the road's opening. In December, 1968, the Crestville Shopping Center opened, offering several convenient services to the expanding area population.

The city has now also acquired three banks, a couple of office buildings and a fast food restaurant.

The city of Crescent Springs has put in effect many new services since it incorporated in 1957, among them a sanitary sewer system, completed at a cost of $370,000 in 1968, and a full time police force now numbering four officers.

The city has also sought to increase its tax base and maintain its potential for growth by annexing surrounding properties.

Although the high cost of building a house has slowed the growth rate of Villa Hills in recent years, that of Crescent Springs has picked up due to the increased attractiveness of apartment dwelling. The promise for future growth in the area is nothing but bright. Let us hope though that in our headlong rush toward the future we manage to preserve a sense of continuity with the past, and a sense of community in the present.

Mike Cunningham
THE BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Marksberry, the pastor, was also a carpenter and he designed the church. A Mr. Marksberry, a stone mason, and others completed the foundation.

Even as the building was being raised other revival meetings were being held and the church family grew. Mrs. Wahl who ran the post office, and her two daughters, Barbara and Jessie, became members. Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Slayback, Grace Slayback, Beulah Slayback, and Mr. and Mrs. Ben Otten, Sr. joined. Ben Otten led the singing for several years.

W. A. Lilly was the first person to be baptized in the new church's baptistry. A roof had yet to be raised above the building. The first deacons to be ordained in the church were W. A. Lilly, Ben Otten, Sr. and Charlie Slayback.

Their first job was to put Rev. Marksberry on a salary of five dollars a week. Prior to that, he had donated his time in preaching the gospel and helping to build the church. He had also spent much time soliciting funds from those he met, and by going to other churches and associations to raise donations.

Construction on the church had, meanwhile, almost come to a halt due to a lack of funds. Rev. Marksberry mortgaged his home, however, and used the money—around $500—to get the roof of the church built.

It was a happy day when the first service was held in the new church with its rough wood floors and two foot by ten foot benches with no backs, and dry goods box, serving as a pulpit. Soon after the church opened, pews were donated by a Covington church, probably South Side.

The happiness didn't last, however, because the Executive Board of the Kentucky State Baptist Association refused to repay the mortgage, as Rev. Marksberry had been led to believe they would. Neither Rev. Marksberry nor the church's congregation could raise the money to pay off the mortgage. The house was repossessed.

The last official act of the 70 year old, partially paralyzed pastor before his resignation was the baptism of Ben Otten, Jr. That was in 1917 or 1918.

Rev. W. A. M. Wood, who was the North Bend Field Worker, assisted the church for several years both before and after Reverend Marksberry's retirement. Rev. Wood had lost a leg during childhood, and as a re-

The Crescent Springs Baptist Church was organized in the summer of 1913 under a tiny grove of trees, in the rear of the present parsonage.

Charter members were the Reverend and Mrs. T. J. Marksberry, Hayden Marksberry, their son, and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Slayback.

Reverend A.H. Ellis from the First Baptist Church of Covington was the evangelist for the first revival meeting, which also was held under the trees.

The reverend was a small man with a large voice. It was stated by one man who played poker regularly in the village saloon, located in the building now known as Nordman's Bar, that Rev. Ellis's voice was so loud it disturbed their card playing.

Julia Coyle, George Otten, and Alice Cain were three of the candidates for baptism. Samuel Dockterman, a deacon, and his wife were received into the church by letter.

During the early years both church services and the Sunday school, which was overseen by Mr. Christophel, the first superintendent of the Sunday school, were held under the trees until winter. In inclement weather, services were held in the old Crescent Springs School house, located where the hardware store now stands.

In the mid-1910's, the members of the church decided the time had come to build a structure in which to worship. Phoebe Anderson donated some land to the church, and work began on the foundation.
sult he used a crutch to walk. The reverend had a deep bass voice, which he used effectively when singing his favorite song, "When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder." He was also fond of lemon pies with "lather" on them, as he referred to the meringue.

By the early 1920's the church's finances had improved to the extent that a minister could be called for part-time service, the salary being $10 a Sunday.

Several pastors served the church during the next few years. Reverend Charles Avery was minister from 1920 to 1923, when he was followed for one year by Reverend Ivan C. Lucas.

Reverend Roy Johnson was ordained by Crescent Springs in 1924. Thirteen persons attended his first service. The church thrived under his leadership, progressing to full-time services.

Mrs. Johnson organized the first Sunbeam Band, a missionary group for young children. The Girls Auxiliary and the Royal Ambassadors, two missionary groups for older girls and boys, were started later, along with the Women's Missionary Union.

After a few years, Rev. Johnson moved to Big Bone Baptist Church, and so in 1929 Reverend V. L. Stephenson was called to serve as pastor. He was followed one year later by Reverend Shirley Spahr.

The members of church were hit hard by the Great Depression. Only one church member, Sidney Conrad, held a steady job. He made $12 a week. Rev. Spahr's salary was supposedly to be $12 a week. That amount was impossible to raise, but Mr. Conrad did see that the reverend received five dollars a week. Rev. Spahr remained as pastor during the worst years of the Depression, and when he left to teach school, the church was far behind in his salary.

Reverend C.E. Brown was called to the church in 1939. Everyone who listened to him preach marveled at his wonderful memory and the way he could quote entire chapters from the New Testament and Psalms without ever looking at his Bible.

Wonderful prayer meetings were held under his leadership; almost everyone including the young persons, would lead out in prayer. Billy Pack, Kenneth Forman, and Teddy Beach attended these prayer meetings and later all three were ordained as ministers of the Gospel.

Rev. Brown was a very conscientious pastor. When the church voted to increase his salary by five dollars a week, he refused, stating that the money ought to be given to the mission program instead.

After Rev. Brown retired in 1945, Rev. Fred Sliger was called as pastor. He was then in the seminary. During Rev. Sliger's stay at Crescent Springs Baptist Church, work was begun on a parsonage. The church had already purchased some extra lots, and several thousand dollars had been saved.

Rev. Sliger resigned in 1948, and the church called Reverend D.E. Mavity, also a seminarian from Georgia, as pastor. He and his family were the first to occupy the parsonage, moving in before it was finished.

Through the years the size of the Sunday school had increased, and the congregation saw the need for a school building. Therefore, Kenneth Forman, the superintendent of the Sunday School, and Ben Otten, Jr., were instructed to draw up floor plans for the building.

The two men submitted their sketches, which called for classrooms on the upper floors and an auditorium in the basement, and the church voted to contract the work until it was under roof, after which the members would do the remaining work.

Work on the new building wasn't begun

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Deacons

The following is a list of names of present and former deacons of the Crescent Springs Baptist Church. The names are listed according to when the person first served as deacon at the church. A * designates persons who were received into the church as deacons by letter.

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<td>S. Dockterman</td>
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<td>Bill Forman</td>
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<td>Charlie Slayback</td>
<td>Virgil Perry</td>
<td>Robert Chitwood</td>
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<td>W. A. Lilly</td>
<td>John Westerman</td>
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<td>Ben Otten, Sr.</td>
<td>John Noel</td>
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until after the resignation of Rev. Mavity and the coming of Reverend Sam Branham as pastor in 1953.

The first Saturday after the contract was finished, 26 men of the church came to complete the job. Work was broke off at noon, when lunch was served by the church women. The work was soon finished and furnishings were moved into the building.

In the mid-1950's the old church was torn down, leaving but a large hole in the ground. Services were held in the auditorium until a new church was built in 1967.

Rev. Branham retired in 1958 and Reverend John Durham was called that September.

The church members had been thinking of constructing a new sanctuary for some time, and so in December 1958, a building committee was appointed. The committee realized quickly that the church lacked the funds to commence a major building project. The church still owed $10,000 on the school building. The new church had to wait.

Rev. Durham, a member of the Army Reserve, remained at Crescent Springs Church for only a short time. After resigning his post there, he joined the Army and served as a chaplain in Germany and in Vietnam.

Reverend Frank Wilkerson was called as pastor in 1960. In the next nine years he and the other church members raised $30,000 for the building fund. With that money and a $60,000 loan the congregation set out to build a new church, which was finally dedicated in October, 1967.

Rev. Wilkerson resigned in 1969, and Reverend Jesse Stricker served as interim pastor until the present pastor, Reverend William H. Smith, was called in January, 1970.

In 1973, the church had a revival led by Reverend Harlin McGinness, who had served as a foreign missionary. During the revival, the church added nearly 30 members.

In recent years, the church has licensed four of its members to preach. They are Elmer Bray, Charlie Gooch, Mark Smith, and John Marshall.

At the present time, Kenneth Cooper is serving as Sunday School superintendent and Sam Smith serves as Training Union director. The church has almost 370 members and is continuing to grow.

Ben H. Otten

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Although the Crescent Springs Presbyterian Church was officially organized in 1898, the history of its formation begins more than six years before.

Sometime before 1892, a Sunday School was organized in the one room Crescent Springs school house. Known as the Union Sabbath School, it was open to all denominations. Edward Ruprecht served as the Second Secretary, and Flora Bird played the organ.

The first superintendent of the Sunday School was D.C. Collins, a local landowner and an elder of the Madison Avenue Presbyterian church. He agreed to undertake the duties of that post for which he was unanimously elected on the second Sunday in January 1894.

During the next two or three years, services were held irregularly. Pastors of several different denominations preached to primarily young audiences.

About the first of July 1898, members of the congregation consulted Rev. Joseph Renni, pastor of the Madison Avenue church, about securing a minister to preach once a month. Rev. Henry Miller, Evangelist, was sent to Crescent Springs to preach every night for two weeks and to visit members of the community during the day.

The visit inspired the people to join in forming a church. On July 11, 1898, the church was organized with 38 members. The first Elders elected were D.C. Collins and Jesse M. Green. The first Deacons were John F. Walton, Monte L. Green, S.P. Owens and George A. Wilson. Appointed to the building committee were Collins, Wilson, Joseph Subanks, Lawrence Ruprecht, and John J. Graf.

The committee had its work cut out for it. The congregation had no land on which to build a church and no money with which to build it.

Leila Collins, the daughter of D.C. Collins, donated a 200 by 200 foot parcel of land, however, and Joseph Subanks contributed stone from the creek beds on his property for use in erecting the church.

It took nearly two years to complete the building which was begun in 1899 and was shaped as a Maltese Cross. Church mem-

20
bers completed most of the work, and the largest expense was $300 for the stone work.

In October, 1900, a meeting was held to determine if the congregation wished to elect a pastor. They did, and after the name of Charles E. Diehl had been placed in nomination and seconded, he was elected by a rising vote of all the members. On Jan. 20, 1901, Rev. Diehl was installed by the Commissioners of the Presbytery, Rev. Renni presiding and Rev. J. M. Brodnax delivering the charge to the people.

Nine months after his installation, on Sept. 15, 1901, Rev. Diehl had the pleasure of presiding at the new church's dedication. The church was furnished with plain wooden benches and had a kerosene lighting system. Prior to the dedication service, the congregation was canvassed for donations, and sufficient money was collected in cash and subscriptions to more than pay the balance of indebtedness of the church building.

A Sunday School annex was built on the church in 1903. The stone for the building came from the Eubanks farm. The cost of the addition was approximately $2,000.

During the next 30 years few physical changes were made to the church. Acetylene lights were used for a time, but they were discarded in 1923 when electricity became available. The electric lights were said to resemble stars in a dark night. The Madison Avenue church also donated the pews which are in present use.

The church employed a procession of pastors during this period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Years</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charles E. Diehl</td>
<td>1901-05</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hugh Hardin Hudson</td>
<td>1905-06</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rev. Sydenstricker</td>
<td>1906-10</td>
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<td>W. W. Evans</td>
<td>1910-15</td>
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<td>Solon T. Hill</td>
<td>1915</td>
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<td>E. O. Fritz</td>
<td>1924-25</td>
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<td>N. J. Warren</td>
<td>1927-28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jas. Woods</td>
<td>1928-29</td>
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<tr>
<td>A. M. Stout</td>
<td>1929-35</td>
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There was a period of several years when the parish had no steady pastor.

Most of the church organizations were begun in these early years. The Church Session, the church's governing body, responsible for all its activities, had been formed immediately. So had the Church Deacon Board, which had the practical duty of caring for the church's finances.

The first women's organization was the Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society and the Ladies Aid. The group changed its name to the more economical, Women's Auxiliary, in 1922. It is now called the Women of the Church Organization.

The society is divided into the Ruth and Esther Circles, and the Home and Evening Circles. All women of the parish 16 years of age or older may join the organization, which is of a social, educational, and service nature.

The first choir was organized in 1925. Known as the Sunshine Choir, it led the singing at services for several years before disbanding. The choir has reformed since, but has dropped its cheerful nomenclature.

Several young peoples societies were also formed. These included the Miriam Missionary Society, the Christian Endeavor, and the Young People's Missionary and Youth Fellowship. There are now two youth organizations—the Presbyteen Youth Fellowship and the Pioneer Youth Fellowship.

Sometime in the early years, a sweet-toned bell had been donated to the church. It was hung from a little wooden tower erected at the side of the building. The tower soon rotted away, and the bell was placed on the ground at the church's rear, where it remained for many years collecting...
Founders

The following were charter members of the Crescent Springs Presbyterian Church:

Joseph Eubanks
Carrie Eubanks
Minnie Faller
Susie Haberman
Mary Kline
Eda Kohler
Mrs. H. Kohler
S. P. Owens
Rosie Owens
John Powers
Rachel Powers
John Seng
Bertha Seng
Fred W. Voight
Eda F. Voight
John F. Walton
Mary N. Walton
William Zell
Maggie Zell

D. C. Collins
Mary L. Collins
Sam Collins
William E. Graf
Mrs. Nettie Graf
Florence M. Graf
John J. Graf
Jesse Green
Monte L. Green
Mrs. Louisa D. Green
Mrs. Josephine Green
Annie Lang
Ernestine Lange
Lawrence Ruprecht
Christine Ruprecht
Edward Ruprecht
George A. Wilson
Elizabeth N. Wilson
Sarah M. Wilson

The house modeled after the 1943 "Better Homes and Gardens" winner, was built of cobblestone from a street in Covington. The church miscounted the amount of brick it needed, and bought and hauled to Crescent Springs twice as much as was needed. Before Eb Powers could begin the stonework, the bricks had to be scraped of the street tar on them.

The building was ready for occupancy in April, 1948, ten months after work had begun. Rev. H. R. Barnett and his family moved into the house which had been promised him when he became pastor in 1945.

On July 11, 1948, three days before the 50th anniversary of the church, the manse was dedicated in conjunction with the anniversary celebration.

Rev. Donald Hopkins replaced Rev. Barnett in 1951. Even as the debt on the manse was being paid off, planning began on a new school building. Curtains were being used to divide the children's classes held in the annex. The adults had to meet in the sanctuary.

Rev. Hopkins did not stay to see the project completed. So it was that Reverend Earnest Krueger, who had only been at the church a year, presided at the dedication of the red brick building in September, 1957. Besides schoolrooms the building also contained a kitchen and space to serve meals. It took more than ten years to pay off the $70,000 structure.

The last project of the church has been the beautification of their sanctuary. The church had originally planned that this be done through memorial gifts. The donation of a stained glass window, "Christ in Gethsemane," marked the beginning of this project. The window was placed in the apse of the church.

The congregation was unsatisfied with this piecemeal approach, however, and determined to undertake a more comprehensive program. They purchased a pulpit, lecturn, altar set, Bible, collection plates, hymn boards, baptismal font, communion cup receptacles, drapes, wall panels, carpeting and beautiful stained glass windows to replace the multi-colored ones they had.

On July 15, 1973, the church celebrated its 75th anniversary. They used the occasion to dedicate a new organ.

The Crescent Springs Presbyterian Church now has 198 members. Rev. Krueger is still the pastor. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Burdick are in charge of the Sunday School which about 75 children and adults attend.

Mike Cunningham
ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH

When on May 28, 1916, the cornerstone of St. Joseph's Catholic Church of Crescent Springs was laid by Bishop Ferdinand Bros- sart, a seven year campaign by area Catholics for a new parish of their own was, at last, culminated.

As early as 1909 twenty-four Catholic families had formed a committee to request Bishop Camillus F. Maes to found a church in the vicinity of Crescent Springs.

Bishop Maes told the committee chairman, J. A. Seissiger, he wanted signatures from everyone interested in establishing the parish. Each signatory was to include in the petition a statement of the number of children in his or her family, and the amount of money he or she would be able to contribute to the founding of the church.

The building had a gasoline lighting system. Two back rooms were used as classrooms for the school which opened in 1917. The basement of the building was used for playspace and for social functions. Restrooms were outside.

The church was dedicated by Bishop Brosart on Sunday, Sept. 3, 1916. After several services, which lasted much of the day, the many visitors were given complimentary chicken dinners, served by the women of the parish.

The young parish was financed through Sunday collections—$3.25 was considered a large take—festival, and euchre games, where fresh produce was given as prizes. Additional funds were raised by auctioning off the stalls used to shelter horses during winter services. Choice locations went to the highest bidders.

The laity of the parish became officially involved in church affairs in 1919, when four men were appointed trustees to serve three year terms. They were George Krumpelman, Bernard Noll, Bernard Ratterman, and Sebastian Berberich.

Soon after the church's founding, men's and women's societies were formed. These developed into the Holy Name and St. Ann's societies.

During the early years of the parish, Fr. Busse lived at Villa Madonna, where he served as chaplain. He and Sr. Agnetis Green, the school's first principal, walked to and from St. Joseph's each day. In poor weather, the Krumpelmans, who lived nearby, rode them to school in their horse and buggy.

Although the situation gave the pastor ample opportunity to meet his parishioners—he would almost always interrupt his walk to talk with persons he met along the way—it was an inconvenient procedure at best.

So in June, 1921 the parish requested permission to build a priest's house. The permission was soon granted and a $6,500 six room structure was quickly raised beside the church.

During the next four decades, only mi-
nor alterations and additions were made to the church's furnishings. A sizable oil portrait of St. Joseph, painted by Johann Schmitt, the tutor of Frank Duveneck, was hung in the church in 1917, joining the large wall painting of the suffering souls in Purgatory. The church's interior was painted for the first time in 1931.

White School Building

In the late 1930's, the altar was remodeled and the sanctuary beautified with the help of a $250 gift from Mrs. Schulte. Maria Gratz donated an eucharistic tabernacle in memory of her parents, and the Benedictine Sisters created and donated the crucifix in present use.

Although the church was large enough to withstand the influx of new parishioners during these years, the school was not. In 1920 and again in 1928, Fr. Busse petitioned the bishop for permission to build a new school. Both requests were denied.

Fr. Busse retired in 1929 because of illness. Rev. John A. Bankemper replaced him. Fr. Bankemper had plans to make something out of his new parish. Whereas Fr. Busse never requested money from his parishioners, Fr. Bankemper made that his 1st duty.

Going house to house, he exacted $500 pledges from almost all. With the money he raised, he immediately set out to rid the parishes of its outhouses, then of its stables. He also replaced the pump with a fountain.

Fr. Bankemper was devoted to the rosary, and led the children in it at lunch-hour. The action became so customary that even when Fr. Bankemper failed to show up the children still went to church to pray. Fr. Bankemper also preferred to take the streetcar to Covington rather than an auto-mobile, since the trip by machine didn't allow enough time to say a complete rosary.

Fr. Bankemper, like his predecessor, requested permission to build a new school. In November, 1929, Bishop Francis W. Howard granted the long-sought permission. A two room structure, costing less than $2,100 was constructed on the site of the present school building.

Each room housing four grades, was heated in winter by a coal stove. It was not efficient heating. Those sitting nearest the stoves were quite hot, while those sitting farther away sometimes had to wear coats to keep warm.

As the fires were not started until about an hour before class, on cold days, ink was often frozen in the bottles during the early morning. The children would huddle around the stoves when they got to school on such cold days. On one occasion a student got too close and set his coat on fire.

During the 1930's, the old St. Joseph Grotto was created. George Krumpelman did the stonework, laboring mostly in the early spring and late fall, when he could spare

Petitioners

The following is a list of the persons who signed the petitions to found St. Joseph's Church. Those persons whose names are preceded by a * signed only the first petition. Those whose names are preceded by a - signed only the second.

John Amon - Henry Bramlage
Lorenz Boh - Mrs. Daglow
Louis Boh - Ant. Hagedorn
- John Clark - Henry Klueper
Carl Hudson - Frank Michaels
Y. S. Jonas - August Nordman
- J. Kennedy - William Raffenberg
- Adam Klotz - George Ramler
- John Klotz - J. H. Raterman
George Lee - H. A. Schuetzer
Ed Michaels - *Mrs. H. A. Schuetzer
Harry Nelson - *J. W. Scott
Adam Noll - *Mrs. A. Seissiger
Ben Raterman - J. A. Seissiger
Anton Rudert - *Mrs. J. A. Seissiger
- Ed Rudolph - *Casper Shafer
Henry Shafer
The Cornerstone Laying

The start of almost any major building project is associated with a certain amount of pomp. Such was the case when Bishop Brossart came to Crescent Springs to lay the cornerstone of St. Joseph's Church.

The bishop was met at the end of the car line (Dixie Highway and Buttermilk Pike) by 50 mounted men whose horses flew ribbons of the church's colors, 100 Knights of St. John, and many members of the Catholic Order of Foresters.

Seven priests assisted the bishop at the ceremonies. Sermons were given in English and in German. The choir of Mother of God Church in Covington performed a musical program. The ceremony ended with the congregation singing "Te Deum."

Mulloy that fall. Eight grades—130 students—and three teachers moved into the new facility.

As years passed and it became nearly impossible to seat everyone at Sunday Mass the parishioners recognized their need for a roomier church. Houses had been springing up in the vicinity of Villa Madonna, and the construction of Interstate 75 promised to stimulate the building boom.

So six years after work was completed on the new school, construction began on a new church. The building, which was designed by Charles Hildreth, was T-shaped. The right wing served as the pastor's residence, the left, as a children's chapel.

Including the choir loft, the seating capacity was approximately 800 persons. The building cost nearly $250,000.

The new church was opened on May 15, 1960, in conjunction with that spring's First Communion celebration, which had been postponed for that purpose.

Fr. Bankemper remained pastor until 1937, when he was replaced in the position by Rev. Earl E. Bauer. Fr. Bauer's was the shortest stay of all of St. Joseph's pastors—three years. After Fr. Bauer was assigned to Williamstown, Rev. Gerald G. Connolly took over the pastorate. He filled the post until his death in 1917.

Three months after Fr. Connolly died Rev. George L. Stier became pastor. It was during Fr. Stier's pastorate that the parish population began to boom.

The most immediate need was for a new school building. In July, 1951 work began on a new one floor building to contain four classrooms, a multi-purpose room, and a kitchen.

Once again, parishioners contributed as much work as possible. Volunteers painted the walls, laid the floor tiles, and varnished the doors. The seventh and eighth grade boys, under Fr. Stier's direction, installed the acoustical tiles of the ceiling.

The building was completed the next summer, and dedicated by Bishop William T.

St. Joseph's Grotto

The furnishings of the church provided a pleasant blend of the old and the new. Making the trip from the old church to the new one were the crucifix, the baptismal font, the many statues, the stations of the cross, the Sorrowful Mother novena plaques and several pews for the choir loft.
Excepting the carryovers, the church was furnished in simple modern style. The altars and altar and communion steps were made of white Alabama and pink Tennessee marble, respectively. The crucifix also was hung against a backdrop of white marble.

The sanctuary furniture and the pews were made of limed oak. The blue and green stained glass windows exhibit symbols of the sacraments and of Mary and Joseph. The donators of the windows, and those who donated windows in the old church, have had their names inscribed on window plaques.

In May, 1962, almost two years to the date the church opened, Bishop Richard H. Ackerman dedicated it. The main and side altars were consecrated. Relics of Saints Pius, Abdon, and Sennon, Martyrs, were enclosed in the altars.

Meanwhile, the Sisters had moved into the old priest's residence, and the old church had been converted into a gym. The old school had also been remodeled and opened for classes.

### Principals

Sr. Agnetis Green, 1917-32
Sr. Theodore Feldman, 1933-42
Sr. Rosemary Howl, 1913
Sr. Viola Fedders, 1914-45
Sr. Emily Meyer, 1916-47
Sr. Geraldine Hillenbrand, 1948-50
Sr. Ida Platz, 1951-55
Sr. Regina Brueggemann, 1956
Sr. Theodore Feldman, 1957
Sr. Kathleen Peeney, 1958-60
Sr. Antonella Melchior, 1961
Sr. Walburg Finke, 1962-64
Sr. William Hellman, 1965-66
Sr. Bernadette McManara, 1967-72
Sr. Virginia Smith, 1973-75
Sr. Pauline Rice, 1976

From the mid-1960's until now, there has seemed to be an ever-present need for more school space. The multi-purpose room of the new school building was converted into classrooms in 1964. The gym became classrooms in 1967. The kitchen which had been moved to the old church basement, was moved to the basement of the new church to provide more space for the library in the older building. The basement of the chapel was renovated into classrooms in 1973.

Even as the school's population expanded, so did the quality of the education, and the parishioners' responsibility for that quality.

In April, 1967 the Parish Board of Education was organized. Five members of the board were elected by the parishioners and four were appointed by Fr. Stier. The responsibilities of the board include the elementary school, the C.C.D. program, and the adult education program.

In spring of 1976, work was completed on the second floor addition to the new school building. It is composed of two open class rooms.

At about the same time the board of education was formed, the Parish Council was organized. The council has 16 members. Nine adult parishioners are elected to overlapping three year terms. One teenage parishioner is elected every year.

Those offices with seats on council are pastor, associate pastor, principal, school board chairman, and the heads (or representatives) of the Holy Name and St. Ann's Societies.

The council has wide responsibilities in the area of parish administration and policy making. Its committees include: finance, communications, liturgy, social action, civic relations, and parish organization.

In June, 1969 for the first time, the school was certified by the Kentucky Department of Education.

At the beginning of the 1968-69 school year, the first grade was dropped at St. Joseph's, as was done at most of the parochial schools in the Covington diocese. It was reinstated two years later, but the seventh and eighth grades were discontinued in its place. The seventh grade has since returned to the school.

In January, 1970, Fr. Stier retired, and Rev. R. Leroy Smith, the present pastor, was named to replace him. Rev. Wilfred Doll was appointed associate pastor. They are now assisted by Rev. Robert Reinke.

The parish's population is increasing quickly. There are now about 730 families in the parish, a growth of almost 80 families in the past year. Nearly 250 children now attend St. Joseph's school. The school employs 10 teachers, a full-time principal and a part-time librarian.

Susan Barth
Mike Cunningham
The first school in the Crescent–Villa area, the so-called Lebanon school, was founded sometime before the Civil War and was located in the southwest fork of present-day Collins and Amsterdam Roads. The building was made of red brick, supposedly shaped from clay at the site and baked there in kilns.

The children, who went to school for only five months each year, studied from McGuffy Readers and the Noah Webster Electric Spelling Book, a speller for all grade levels.

Because the Kenton County School Board wasn’t organized until 1908, there are few records before that date. Records do show that Hattie Mariman taught there in 1894, and Robert Scott recalls that his parents taught there at the turn of the century.

Some of the families with children who attended the school in 1900 were the Beils, Botzes, Collins, Kennels, Lees, Magilys, Wilsons, Niemeyers, Popps, Scotts, and Searps.

A grade school wasn’t formed in Crescent Springs until sometime between 1883 and 1892. The little one room schoolhouse was located where the hardware store now stands.

One of the school’s first teachers was J. G. Anderson, a local dairy farmer, for whom Anderson Road was named. Two others were Blanche Haner, and a Miss Priest.

In 1917, the school term was extended to seven months at most Kentucky state common schools.

By resolution of the Board of Education, on Sept. 9, 1916, a high school was established at Crescent Springs. It was one of three high schools that opened that year. (The Board had previously opened a high school in Independence.) Stella Lee was the first teacher. She was succeeded by Anna Murphy in 1918 and by S. V. Wade in 1920.

The School graduated its first student in 1920. She was Beulah Slayback, the lone Senior that year. The following year the graduation class doubled in size, and Ben H. Otten and Alice Lillick Stephenson were granted diplomas.

The curriculum offered then was much the same as today’s. Algebra and geometry, French and Latin, American and ancient history, and English and literature were studied.

In 1920, the Board felt the time had come to try consolidating some of the many districts in the county. A great opportunity presented itself in the area of Crescent Springs.

The Lebanon school was losing students, and the building needed repairs. Considerable difficulty was also being had in getting a good teacher. On the other hand, the Crescent Springs district was growing rapidly.
Dixie Highway and its vicinity. The Board set Smith's salary at $20 a month and increased Eubanks' salary by $10 a month.

With consolidation and the institution of the high school, it had been necessary to add three more classrooms to the school building.

Grades 1-3, totaling about 30 pupils, were housed in one room. The 25 students making up grades 4-6 were housed in another. The remaining two rooms housed the 20 to 25 high school and junior high school students.

On August 11, 1923, the voters in the area being served by the Crescent Springs school opted to consolidate and approved a levy of 15 cents per hundred in order to retire $50,000 in bonds to be used to construct a new school building. At that time each school district, not the county, had responsibility for much of each individual school's financing. The bonds were finally retired and the special tax removed in February, 1935.

Having approved sale of the bonds, it was necessary to find a purchaser. The local banks were leery of buying them. Covington attorney Shelly House counseled a group of persons living in the district to form a holding company to sell the bonds. A holding company, subject to court suit, provided greater assurance that the bonds would be retired.

So C.C. Streutker, Joseph Eubanks and Carl Thirs joined with the chairman of the school board, C. O. Morgan, and made the long trip into Covington to confer with Shackelford Lee, president of First National Bank of Covington, who approved the purchase of the bonds. A corporation was organized, consisting of Streutker, Eubanks, Henry Hub, Wayne Husk, Charles Thirs, Albert Werns, and Rudolph Schroth, to issue the bonds and then enter into contract with the school board to build and lease to them a school building. This was the first and only venture of this kind in the county.

On May 10, 1924, land was purchased from Adam and Amelia Noll. On August 13, 1924, House and Baker were awarded a contract for constructing a brick and concrete structure of eight class rooms, two office rooms, auditorium and gymnasium combined, cafeteria and kitchen at a bid of $15,567. A hard winter froze the concrete, but the builder cooperated in making adjustments.

The building was dedicated on Feb. 28, 1925. Souvenir pencils were sold and the money was used to start a library fund.

James A. Caywood followed Wade as the principal in the new building. Soon after Crescent Springs got a school large enough to care for all the children in its district, it found its boundaries reduced. The school lost 100 students to a new Park Hills district formed in 1928.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principals</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S. V. Wade, 1920-24</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Caywood, 1924-37</td>
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<td>E. F. Norton, 1937-38</td>
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<td>William Harris, 1938-43</td>
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<td>Mildred F. Tupman, 1943-56</td>
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<td>Donovan Hall, 1956-57</td>
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<td>Bernice Marshall, 1957-58</td>
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<td>Chester Hammons, 1958-59</td>
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<td>Herbert Anthony, 1959-61</td>
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<td>Raymond Cook, 1961-64</td>
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<td>Charles Kellum, 1964-67</td>
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<td>Norbert Lewin, 1967-68</td>
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By 1934, the School Board had become dissatisfied with its high school system. The four schools were too small to offer a diversified course of study at each. It had also been difficult to organize athletic teams, musical bands, and other groups which required large numbers of students. There was very little laboratory equipment available and library books were few.

In October, 1934, the Board requested the State Department of Education to make a survey and assist in development of a long time program for Kenton County.

In March, the department issued its report, one of the recommendations of which was that the Crescent Springs School be enlarged and improved to take care of all pupils in the northern end of the county or a new structure be built somewhere on Dixie Highway. The school board opted to pursue the second alternative.

The 1935 and 1936 school years mark the height of the high school in Crescent Springs. After the reshuffling of 60 students from Independence high school (giving the Crescent Springs school a total of about 110 high schoolers), a commercial department for which 15 typewriters were purchased was opened, and a considerable amount of money was invested in equipment for the Industrial Arts class and obtaining a competent instructor to develop a
worthwhile program.

Dixie Heights High School (which for a period of three months in the winter of 1936-7 was named the Franklin Delano Roosevelt High School) was opened in September, 1937. The high school at Crescent Springs was discontinued and Caywood was appointed principal of the new secondary school.

In 1955, the district was divided and a new school opened near the Dixie Heights High School. This new school was named after James A. Caywood.

Turkeyfoot Junior High School opened its doors in September 1962, and the seventh and eighth grades were discontinued at Crescent Springs.

Two additions have been made to the original building. During 1963, a new multipurpose room and cafeteria was built. The old cafeteria and auditorium were also remodeled into three temporary classrooms.

In February, 1969, construction began on a new building to comprise five classrooms and a new library. This structure was occupied in November of that year.

At the beginning of the 1970-71 school year, due to crowded conditions existing at Turkeyfoot Junior High School, two seventh grade sections were returned to Crescent Springs. Also during this year the Special Education class was moved there from the Bromley Elementary School.

A redistricting plan was also put into effect, by which the Crescent Springs district was expanded to take in parts of Orphanage-Horsebranch Road, 3-L Highway, and Dudley Pike.

During the 1974-75 school year Crescent Springs was designated as a Title I school (a school with a fairly large number of students from low income families. Title I status is determined by the percentage of pupils receiving free lunches.) and a remedial reading teacher, fully paid by the federal government, was added to the staff. The school also had twice weekly service of a guidance counselor.

District lines were changed again and all the students from short Amsterdam down to the Bromley city limits were transferred to the Bromley Elementary School.

On February 13, 1975, Crescent Springs school celebrated its golden anniversary. C. C. Streutker, the only living member of the holding company that built the school was honored.

With the return of the first grade to St. Joseph’s in 1970-1, the enrollment at Crescent Springs has dropped below the 600 student level. Enrollment now stands at 536 pupils. The school employs 26 teachers and has 20 classrooms.

Most of this history was compiled by James A. Caywood, C. C. Streutker, and Norbert Lewin.

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VILLA MADONNA

The story of Villa Madonna begins October 13, 1903, with the purchase of the 85.5 acre W. S. Collins estate from James Cleveland by the Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Convent of Twelfth Street, Covington.

Four decades before, in June, 1859, three Sisters, immigrants from Germany, came to Covington from Erie, Pennsylvania, intending to found a community of Benedictine Sisters to help the German settlers in the lower Ohio valley keep the faith and teach their children. Accordingly, they set up classrooms in St. Joseph Parish, Twelfth Street, Covington, and soon built there a convent and girls’ academy, called St. Walburg Academy, taking resident and day students. The Sisters still have a collection of beautifully-scribed notebooks of their students’ lessons that won an award at the Columbian Exhibition of 1892, the first World’s Fair. These Sisters were blessed with good fortune and, as their numbers grew, longed for a country home for their convent and school.

One of the parish priests from St. Joseph Church, Father Rhabanus Gutman, O.S.B., had heard that the Collins property was for sale and offered to take a few Sisters to see the place, eventually named Villa Madonna, a name suggested by him. The name means “country seat of Our Lady” and the school to be opened was dedicated to Our Lady of Good Counsel.

The site known as Villa Madonna presently has 239 acres: a hundred of which surround the school; another hundred, the Convent; and about thirty, Madonna Manor. While the Sisters were planning to
build their school, through a mistake an advertisement appeared in the Catholic Telegraph stating that applications were being accepted for elementary classes for the new school. People expected the school to open that fall, so the very first Wednesday of September found four Sisters and seventeen boarding students at home in the Collins house, which served them with chapel, classrooms, and living quarters for Villa's first three years.

Marie and Gertrude Staggenborg were Villa's first residents and Agnes Thornton of Crescent Springs was Villa's first day pupil. Sister M. Vincentia Dolan, O.S.B., was appointed directress of Villa Madonna Academy, a position she held for 21 years. Sister Helen Rickert was a second teacher, and Sister Cecilia O'Shaughnesssey was the music teacher.

As soon as the school was open, a house was erected just west of the Collins house for the chaplain. In 1906, ground was broken for the new academy and the cornerstone was laid on May 21. This building was dedicated in the spring of 1907, and in September, Villa began accepting high school students.

The St. Cecilia stained-glass window, recently restored as a bicentennial gift to the school by the Alumniae and the V.M.A. Mothers' Club, was originally the gift of the first day student Agnes Thornton, the late Mrs. Rupprecht.

The Academy building is still much the same as it was from the very beginning, except that the swimming pool replaces the original laundry, and the kitchen area is now a maintenance department. Dorms have been carpeted and otherwise modernized, but the original iron bed frames in the girls' curtained alcoves add an antique touch. In the kitchen area there had been a 'cold' room too, used exclusively for storing food. The room was kept cold with huge blocks of ice taken from the pond when it would freeze.

Electricity had only come to Villa in 1917, but Villa did have a Delco system that gave light before electricity was wired in. Sometimes when the lights grew dim in chapel or in study hour, someone had to go to the basement pump with flashlight to pull the cord that started the light once more.

Immediately after the new building was erected, a huge pump sent water from the lake to the school building. The little lake house, now known as Manna-fold (a house for peace and prayer), was built around the pump and was added to eventually to provide a workman's living quarters. Between the pump house and the academy kitchen stood a little brick ice house for storing the 100-pound blocks of ice cut from the pond for use in the school kitchen. City water came to Villa in 1929 after the serious drought of the previous year.

In 1911 a Valentine's Day fire destroyed the recently erected farmhouse and barn, and new barns and a brick workman's house were immediately rebuilt. Another fire in 1922 destroyed the barn, but left the Ben Noll family's home intact. It sits on a little hill and this house is still called the Knoll.

After this fire a brick barn was built. This barn has not housed animals since 1965, but has been remodeled to serve as Villa's Early Learning Center, begun in 1967, the same year the Sisters started a summer day camp offering fresh air, natural beauty, and summer fun to inner-city children of Latonia, Covington, and Newport.

In 1911 Villa Madonna Academy graduated its first high school class of four students. Among them was Katrine Adams, soon to become Sister Miriam Annunciate, O.S.B., and thereafter to be Villa's second directress, 1929-1961. In 1931, when St. Walburg Academy merged with Villa Madonna because of the college's need for classroom space downtown, the V.M.A. senior class doubled and there were thirty girls who graduated. The class of 1975 had a total of eighty graduates. To date Villa will have graduated 1880 girls, including the class of 1976.

Today Villa has a total of 811 students in both high school and elementary. Many come from out of state and some from foreign countries. This year Malaysia, Columbia,
Mexico, and Nicaragua are represented. In past years students from Hong Kong, Guatemala, Indonesia, Greece, Burma, Cuba, Germany, and Saudi Arabia have attended Villa.

The Benedictine Sisters began Villa Madonna College here at the Villa in 1921. The college operated on its own charter, and was state accredited. In 1929, it moved to Twelfth Street in Covington. After relocation in 1965 on Turleyfoot Road, the college was renamed Thomas More.

Meanwhile, as VMA enrollment increased gradually, the demands of an elementary school, a high school, and a growing college necessitated that the Sisters set up near the tennis court a Sears-Roebuck prefabricated building of four rooms, and two floors, to be known as The Brown House and to accommodate the elementary classes, two grades to a room, 1921-1957.

About the same time as the college moved downtown, the Sisters purchased the Lee home on the western hill behind the Collins house and used this dwelling as the novitiate for the young Sisters entering the Convent, 1928-1937. Along with the Lee purchase came the two small cottages Lee had built for his sons up the road a piece. The Sisters also laid out their cemetery, which has by now opened its hundredth grave.

Fifty of the earliest Benedictine Sisters of Covington lie buried in Mother of God Cemetery, Latonia.

Villa's distance from 'civilization' created its own problems, but coupled with illness, it once had a happy side effect. In 1905 the Sisters called Dr. John L. Cleveland to attend one of their boarders who was sick. Dr. Cleveland refused to treat her until Villa promised to install a phone. He himself contributed the first $100 to have the lines put up; Mr. Lee and the Sisters each paid $50.

From the earliest days of Villa, the grounds spoke their beauty. Lovely trees and shrubs, many planted by the students themselves, added scenic grace to the rustic gardens. There was a large grotto, a landscaped Sacred Heart garden, and a large statue of Our Lady, where the road meets the sky at the brow of the hill. And entrance gates were placed at 2500 Amsterdam Road in 1931.

The scholastic reputation of Villa rose. The faculty and students have been characterized by their interest in excellent education. Affiliation with the Catholic University of America was accomplished as early as 1915. Since 1923 Villa Madonna Academy has held accreditation with Kentucky State Department of Education as a Class A school. Membership in the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools has been continuous since 1925. The Villa earned a Superior rating in 1964.

Of late lay teachers almost balance Sister members on the faculty. Teachers and students have become involved in educational ventures like closed-circuit television, elective programs, non-grading, community involvement, and team administration. At present the administration team numbers five persons under the direction of Sister Karen Robey, O.S.B.

In 1929 the Motherhouse of the Benedictine Sisters was transferred from Twelfth Street to Villa Madonna, and plans were begun for erecting St. Walburg Convent, completed in 1937. The prioresses of the Benedictine Sisters of Covington to date are:

- Mother Alexia Lechner
- Mother Walburga Saelinger
- Mother Margaret Hugenberg
- Mother Lioba Holz
- Mother Domitilla Thiener
- Mother Hilda Obermeier
- Mother Benedict Bunning
- Sister Ruth Yost

The four latest prioresses still live.

From this Covington Motherhouse have sprung new Benedictine foundations at Ferdinand, Indiana, and Cullman, Alabama. Some of the Covington Sisters were among those founding St. Leo's, Florida.

Benedictines of Covington have worked as school teachers, sacristans, CCD teachers, parish ministers, and organists in many of the parishes of the Covington diocese as well as in Colorado. Since 1946 the Sisters have also done hospital work in Hazard and Irvine, Kentucky, and in Colorado.

For
several years, the Covington Benedictines did parish and catechetical work in Juli, Peru.

Almost from the beginning, the Villa was a flourishing farm, especially under the able direction of Sister Bernard Gripshover. There were cows, sheep, pigs, chickens, and good crops of fruits and vegetables.

Lee House - Villa

The purchase of the Brown property, near WCKY radio station, provided extra housing for farm workers, later for Displaced Persons families of World War II, and as recently as 1967, for lay volunteer teachers for the Covington diocese.

Serving as a vacation house for many years, the Brown house stands beside the resting place of the original Levi Cleveland and his wife and two children, according to Mrs. Jane Matson, nee Cleveland, who was born on Villa soil.

The Gate House, formerly Maegly's residence and famous for the chicken dinner picnic at Fogle's farm, was added to Villa property about the same time the new high school wing was being built in 1958.

This building venture caused the daily paper to run a banner headline MILLION DOLLAR MORTGAGE. It was the greatest to that date in the city of Covington. There was a big prayer of gratitude several years ago when the debt to the bank was finally paid. But the building is beautiful and spacious and makes learning pleasant. Incidentally, the dedication of the building coincided with the funeral of Sister Vincentia, Villa's first directress.

The next Convent endeavors were to create Madonna Manor in 1964, and to add an infirmary wing to the Convent in 1967. The large meeting room built beneath the infirmary wing accommodated the total community of Sisters gathered during the summer of 1969 for spiritual renewal and updating their Church life in the wake of Vatican Council II.

Villa is a growing place, a place of beauty and peace. The Sisters daily witness their faith to one another and gladly share their gift with those who visit the premises. The Sisters know God has blessed them; generous and loving benefactors have assisted their efforts; the good will of the neighborhood prospers their works. Some Sisters say that "when God ends this world, the Villa is where Heaven's going to be."

Ann Redman, V.M.A., '76
Sister Teresa Wolk, O.S.B.

Madonna Manor

One of the fastest-growing and most needed services in the Crescent Springs-Villa Hills area is that of caring for the senior citizens who reside at Madonna Manor, a sprawling thirty-acre enterprise of the Benedictine Sisters at the eastern end of the Villa grounds.

On what was once a farm and grazing land, one now finds a modern nursing home, nine apartment houses containing various-sized living quarters, and a recreational facility that also serves as Villa Hills's city building.

Madonna Manor Nursing Home - 1964

Many interesting stories can be told in relating the founding of Madonna Manor. (See the story in the accompanying box.) Briefly, the need was made known in 1963 through a variety of ways, and that same year the Sisters accepted the need, agreed to answer it, considered their resources, sought approval and laid plans for the beginning of construction. Their hope for senior citizens was opened in 1964; when the first three cottages were ready for occupancy.

When the first cottages were built, the Sisters planned to care for ambulatory
guests who could live and would live independently. Their lone needs would be Mass, meals, and recreation. It became apparent immediately, however, that a building for administration and nursing services was needed. Within one year, the Nursing Home-Administration building was ready, fully equipped for the care of the sick. It included treatment rooms, dining area, chapel, kitchen, laundry, and recreational facilities. To meet state requirements, the administration building was enlarged and renovated in 1975 to include the necessary safety features.

In addition to the Nursing Home and the first cottage, which contains seven apartments adjoining a central lounge with a single kitchenette, there are now forty-eight apartments where the residents live independently, doing their own cooking or going to the Administration building for meals.

By January 1968 the Recreation Center was ready for use. Besides being a place where the residents can meet to socialize, the building is a setting also for retreat groups, wedding receptions, Villa Hills Police Court, concerts, bible vigils, family parties and socials of all kinds, and of course, the annual Flea Market.

Though it is evident that Madonna Manor is a Catholic institution, other Christian denominations are represented; as early as 1966 there were Presbyterian, Baptist, Mason, and Lutheran residents. For many the chapel is the center of much happiness and gives an added dimension to their daily living. The chaplain, Father David Macpherson, says Mass daily, and there are ample occasions to receive the sacraments.

Sisters have contributed their services to the people of the Manor in a variety of ways amidst their other duties. Some find time to visit, sew, do office work, feed patients, provide recreation or contribute to the Flea Market. They have found a great joy caring for their own parents or other close relatives or friends at the Manor. But without the help of the business manager, Mr. R. C. Cornell, lay nurses, aides, staff helpers, housekeeping assistants, high school helpers, and volunteers, the vast work could not go on.

Today the former farm house on the grounds is occupied by four of the five Sisters who work full time at the Manor. Sister Joan Gripshover, R. N., is director of nursing services, while Sister Geraldine Gajniak is on duty as night nurse. Sister Charles Wolking, a former occupational therapist at Redwood School, has been administrator since June 1966, succeeding Sister Germaine Gehrig and Sister Martina Arnold. Sister Joseph Ruschman has been providing meals for the residents since the Manor first opened. The first year she cooked in the Lake Cottage (now called Manna-fold) at Villa Madonna Academy and took the meals down to the first Manor cottage where they were reheated. She now operates a fully equipped dietary kitchen for all residents taking their meals at the Nursing-Administration building. From the

Harry Baker:
The Manor's Inspiration

Harry Baker, the gardener at the Villa from 1947 to 1965, got his name from the founder of the infant home in New York where he was 'dropped off' nameless and homeless, many years ago. Mr. Baker loved the Villa; it was his greatest delight to make the Villa look beautiful.

When he retired, he had no place to go, so he was given a room and bath in the boiler-laundry building. He seemed happy and content, but in the middle of the night he would come over to ring the convent bell, saying he could not sleep, or had a headache, or was extremely sick. When this began to happen several times a week, a decision was made to take Mr. Baker to the Little Sisters of the Poor's home for the aged in Cincinnati.

On the return trip, the Sisters observed that all ages but the elderly were served by the Benedictines, and they questioned whether some land on Villa property couldn't be found for them. Thus the idea of Madonna Manor was conceived.

Mr. Baker would run away from the Little Sisters of the Poor and return to the Villa looking for his room. When, at last, the Manor was completed, Mr. Baker was given a place to stay where the Benedictines could keep and care for him as long as possible.
very beginning also, Sister Benedict Bunning, then mother superior of the community was closely associated with Manor planning. She is now assistant administrator at the Manor.

There are several other persons at the Manor who deserve mentioning. One of these, Mrs. John A. (Mayme) Bender, is the only Manor resident from the first day of its existence. Another unforgettable personality is Father Francis DeJaico, the Manor chaplain from 1966 to 1972, who is fondly called the "patriarch." Now retired from chaplaincy, he still entertains with his jokes, good will and guitar.

Working with the elderly and infirm is a growing experience. Sister Charles, who changed from work with handicapped children to assume responsibilities at the Manor, said, "I have come to love older people dearly and to see how much wisdom they have and the amount of encouragement that they can give to younger people is tremendous. How hopeful they can be! encourage us also to be hopeful."

Nancy Sullivan, VMA '76
Sr. Mary Carol Hellmann, OSB

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

A volunteer fire department was organized in Crescent Springs in 1928 by Joseph Kolar, who became the first Fire chief. As it had no equipment, the group's first task was to collect sufficient funds with which to buy some.

The first fire truck was not a truck at all. It was a wagon with a single chemical tank attached to it. A wagon, though, is of limited value if you have nothing with which to pull it. Such was the case of the fire department. The problem was remedied, however, when some of the local farmers volunteered their horses.

The wagon was housed in a shed-like garage, owned by Harry Feldman, and situated next to his store in the eastern fork of Anderson and Western Reserve Roads.

The structure which had only a small office and space to park one vehicle was painted in fire departments' traditional color—red.

Although a horse drawn wagon is not a speedy way to travel, it was the only means of transit the department could afford until the early 1930's.

The organization got its first real fire truck in 1931-2. It was a Buick car, which Kolar and Henry Wagner cut down to hold two chemical tanks. The tanks were rotated slightly to enable the water to flow.

There were few fires during the early years of the department. The first house fire, a roof fire on Tom Cuthbert's house on Collier Avenue, wasn't until 1933. The first major fire also occurred in the early 1930's, when Joe Cochran's house burned to the ground.

Because of disuse, cobwebs had to be swept away and the truck's tires inflated, whenever a fire was reported. The firemen's principal preoccupation was filling local citizens' cisterns. The water line was owned by the Benedictine Sisters, so to get your cistern filled you had to have a five dollar permit.

Although many romantic conceptions have grown up around the powers and duties of the fire chief, they often lack a basis in fact. For example, no one wanted the job of chief of the Crescent Springs department. His duties included keeping the furnace going during cold weather, and putting the snow chains on the truck's tires.

In 1932 Kolar went to Washington D.C. to solicit aid in building a new firehouse from the Works Progress Administration (WPA), one of the alphabet agencies of the Depression.

The agency okayed the Crescent Springs project, and in May, 1933 Judge Goodenough
broke ground for the building. The local unemployed and the firemen volunteers completed most of the work. Hayden Marksberry, who had built many of the houses in Crescent Springs, was the construction boss.

The Cincinnati Southern Railroad, for which Kolar worked, donated rails for use as beams for the structure, which was located where Swan Street, Crescent Avenue, Anderson Road, and Western Reserve Road meet. The triangle of land, known as Foage Park, had been donated to the community.

When the new firehouse was occupied in 1938, it was not in attractive shape. It had not been painted. The window frames were rusted. No decorative trim had been done, and the grounds looked like freshly turned soil.

At the end of 1938, the department sold its truck and purchased a used pumper. The new truck was equipped with a hand cranked siren, a flashing red light on the front, a 100 gallon water tank, an open cab, and, of course, a pump. Soon after the pumper was placed in service, the area's fire insurance rate was reduced.

During the 1940's various improvement projects were undertaken at the firehouse. The building was painted, gutters were added, as were overhead garage doors, and a coal fired furnance. The upstairs was completed for use as a meeting place. Additional equipment was bought with the one dollar per house service fee.

In March, 1946, the department got a second fire truck, an International, which they purchased from the U.S. Army Surplus. The Kentucky Department of Insurance told the volunteers in 1953 that unless they put a 500 gallon per minute pumper in service, area fire insurance rates would have to be increased. The pumper cost $9,000, a sum the department couldn't hope to meet on its existing revenues. The service fee had to be increased and then collected in a door to door canvass.

As the money was being collected, specifications for the new truck were drawn up and sent to the manufacturer. Later, it was learnt that the truck was too high and wide to fit in the firehouse. An additional $6,000 was needed to enlarge the firehouse.

The organization borrowed the money it required to meet the Insurance Bureau's wishes, and for the next several years repaid it with funds from the service charge, carnivals, bingos, and fish frys.

In mid-1955 the new Ahrens Fox pumper pulled into the addition, which included a fully equipped kitchen and restrooms. The old 1938 truck was sold and some hose and other equipment was bought.

The volunteers decided to organize a life squad in 1958. At that time the area was being served by Elsmere and Bromley. However, the department was still paying for its newest firetruck and was unwilling to borrow more money to buy an ambulance.

The members decided to canvass the community for donations, instead. With the money they raised, they purchased a used Cadillac Life Squad from the city of Blue Ash, Ohio.

The American Red Cross was then contacted, and they sent a qualified first aid teacher to give weekly lessons. Fifteen men received instruction in advanced first aid.

The original ambulance was replaced in 1965 with an International Conversion Unit. In December 1972, a new International life squad was purchased as a Christmas Present for the students who had just passed Emergency Medical Training.


Last year the 17 women and 14 men who make up the squad went on more than 500 runs, nearly twice the number of calls they received nine years ago.

In 1960 the service fee was increased to five dollars, and the added monies were used to buy new equipment and an insurance policy for the firemen.

In the late 1950's the department learned it held no title to the firehouse or the property on which it was built. A friendly suit was filed and the Kenton Co. Circuit Court awarded a deed to the Crescent Springs Volunteer Fire Department on
Fire Chiefs

This is a partial list of chiefs of the Crescent Springs Volunteer Fire Department. Because some records are missing, a complete list is impossible to compile. Only names and dates found in the files are given.

Joe Kolar, 1938, 33-34
Tom Guthbert, 1932
Frank Lillick, 1940
Ervin Rudolph, 1941-42
William Madden, 1943
Kinny Niemeier, 1946
L. LaGally, 1947
Joe Kallmeyer, 1952-54, 56-59, 62-68
William Madden, 1955
Ansel Van Arsdale, 1960
Sammy F. Foltz, 1961
Ed Niewahmer, 1969-72
Ken Kallmeyer, 1973-

the basis that it had possessed and maintained the property without interruption for a period exceeding 15 years.

Again in 1965, the Insurance Bureau threatened to raise insurance rates if the department failed to buy another pumper. To place a third truck in operation, $28,000 had to be raised.

The department increased its service fee to $10, and within two years collected enough money to purchase the truck with an additional loan of $12,000. The new truck was dedicated in October, 1967.

In the late 1960's, the men purchased two way radios for the vehicles, and portable radios for officers at the fire. A base station was installed at the firehouse. A two and one half acre plot on which to build a new firehouse was also bought (but not used.)

Work on the new fire station, located on Overlook Drive, began in January, 1975, two months after property was bought there. The firehouse was built to contain three offices and a recreation room upstairs, and downstairs, an equipment room, radio room, locker room, restrooms(The men's room has a shower.), and a kitchen.

The building, which cost nearly $125,000, was completed and dedicated to former chief, Joe Kallmeyer, in October, 1975. On the same day the firehouse was dedicated, the department's newest truck, a Seagrove 1500 GPM (gallons per minute) Pumper, was also dedicated, this to past, present, and future firemen.

In an attempt to relieve the fire department of some of its administrative duties, the Crescent-Villa Fire Authority was created in July, 1975.

The authority consists of two representatives each from the cities of Villa Hills, Crescent Springs, and Crescent Park, two representatives from the fire department and the president of the fire department.

Last year the 35 volunteers responded to 68 calls in the three cities. This is a few (18) more calls than were received in 1967.

Any man, 18 years or older (16 or 17 with parents' permission), may join the fire department. Any person, 18 years or older, who completes the proper training may join the life squad. Mike Cunningham

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A Note from the Chairman

The Crescent-Villa Bicentennial Group is made up of interested, hard working citizens of your community. Theirs has been a non-paying, often unappreciated job. They will receive criticism, advice, and very little help. They will receive no honor and glory.

Each project has been time-consuming and frustrating, but also rewarding. The people who have undertaken these tremendous chores have done so out of generosity and concern for their friends and neighbors. If anyone or anything has been omitted from this history booklet or any of the other Bicentennial Events, it was done unwittingly.

In our efforts to plan a successful program, we have suffered problems, felt joy over achievements and learned to know our fellow men better. We have felt realms of emotion—from anger and disappointment to happiness and delight.

We have been honored by being officially declared a Bicentennial Community. We have prayed and we have sworn but we have done our jobs well.

To any and all of you who contributed toward this celebration of our nation, I sincerely thank you. I feel profound respect and deep appreciation for each and every person. I realize the problems you have suffered and know you must be happy with your accomplishments.

I am proud to be an American and proud of you. You and others like you are what makes this country able to celebrate its 200th birthday. Congratulations, God bless America and us! Jody Schwartz
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